

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2575

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV RW

SUBJ: NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT: AN EVALUATION

REF: A) KIGALI 0472; B) KIGALI 0475 (NOTEL)

1. SUMMARY: NEW RWANDAN MINISTERS (EIGHT CIVILIANS AND 5 MILITARY) REFLECT TO SOME DEGREE PRESIDENT'S CRITERIA OF COMPETENCE AND REGIONAL AND ETHNIC BALANCE (REF B). MILITARY AND TECHNOCRATS REPLACE OLD POLITICAL ELITE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESENTING PROGRAM OF RWANDA'S "SECOND REPUBLIC" GENERAL JUVENAL HABYALIMANA SPOKE OF "GOVERNMENTAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM THAT IS SOUND, RELIABLE, COMPETENT, RESPONDING TO A GOOD REGIONAL AND ETHNIC EQUILIBRIUM." PRELIMINARY LOOK AT NEW TEAM SUGGESTS ADHERENCE TO THESE CRITERIA. THERE ARE TWO TUTSIS, ANDRE KATABARWA (PUBLIC WORKS) AND SEDECIA MUGAMBIRA (AGRICULTURE--
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APPARENTLY VERY POPULAR JUDGING FROM APPLAUSE AT

ANNOUNCEMENT HIS NAME) AND AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH PREFECTURE. IF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL GROUPINGS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, NORTH (BUKIGA) PREDOMINATES OVER THE CENTER-SOUTH (NDUGA) BECAUSE OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN GOVERNMENT COUNCIL. GITARAMA, WHICH HAD 5 MINISTERS IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, NOW HAS ONE, JEAN-MAIRE MBONYUMUTWA (PLAN).

3. MOST CIVILIAN APPOINTEES NEW TO UPPER GOR ECHELONS BUT APPARENTLY CHOSEN ON BASIS OF TRAINING AND COMPETENCE. CIVIL ENGINEERS HEAD MINISTERIES OF PUBLIC WORKS AND POST, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER HEAD AGRICULTURE. THADDEE BAGARAGAZA, INTELLIGENT, RESPECTED FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND LAST PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOW HAS IMPORTANT NATIONAL EDUCATION PORTFOLIO. IN CONTRAST, LITTLE IN THEIR TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS WHY OFFICERS APPOINTED TO INFORMATION, YOUTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE CHOSEN FOR THESE POSTS. LT. COLONEL KANYARENGWE, FORMER HEAD OF SURETE, HOWEVER, PROBABLY WELL PREPARED FOR JOB AT INTERIOR AND CIVIL SERVICE.

4. EXCEPT FOR BAGARAGAZA OLD POLITICAL ELITE IS OUT. SECOND GENERATION REPRESENTED IN MBONYUMUTWA (PLAN), SON OF FIRST PRESIDENT OF AUTONOMOUS RWANDAN REPUBLIC. MILITARY HAS HELD ON TO KEY MINISTERIAL JOBS (DEFENSE, INFORMATION, INTERIOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS).

5. CABINET POSTS REFLECT ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE JURISDICTIONS OF FORMER MINISTERS, MINISTERS DELEGATE, AND STATE SECRETARIES DEFINED SINCE INDEPENDENCE BY DEMANDS OF PATRONAGE. STATE SECRETARIATS HAVE BEEN ABSORBED OR TURNED INTO MINISTRIES. THERE ARE NO MINISTERS DELEGATE TO THE PRESIDENCY OR, FOR THE PRESENT, NO SPECIAL OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY ALTHOUGH THE SWISS AND BELGIAN ADVISORS CONTINUE TO FUNCTION. HABYALIMANA STILL WORKS OUT OF HIS OLD OFFICE AT DEFENSE MINISTRY, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF FAR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS THERE. FORMER KIGALI OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT RENAMED "L'HOTEL 5 JUILLET" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WAS SITE SECOND REPUBLIC INAUGURATION.
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